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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor	: Kevin J. Schulz et al.	
Appln. No.	: 10/083,054	
Filed	: February 26, 2002	Group Art Unit: 2652
For	: STIFFENED SUSPENSION FOR A STORAGE DEVICE HAVING A LAYER OF COMPOSITE MATERIAL	Examiner: Klimowicz
Docket No.:	S01.12-0829	

11/Dsp 3/3/03

RESPONSE

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER IS BEING SENT BY U.S. MAIL, FIRST CLASS, TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231, THIS 14th DAY OF February, 2003.

PATENT ATTORNEY

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on December 23, 2002 in which claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 13, 15, 16, 21, 23, and 24 were rejected.

REMARKS

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 13, 15, 16, 21, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Pal et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,760,478, hereinafter Pal) in view of Oberg (U.S. Patent No. 4,991,045).

Pal discloses a suspension assembly that includes a 3 mils thick stainless steel load beam 24. To reduce vibrations on the suspension assembly, Pal applies a 5 mils thick viscoelastic material to steel load beam 24. This material has adhesive on both sides of it and thus is adhesively applied to load beam 24. A 2 mils thick steel constraining member 36 is then applied to the viscoelastic material. Note that Pal does not adhesively apply the constraining member 36 to load beam 24 but instead adhesively applies constraining member 36 to the viscoelastic dampening material, which is actually thicker than the load beam.